

## THE CRIME OF THE AGE

THE WANTON WASTE OF THE TIMBER RESOURCES OF AMERICA, RAPIDLY GROWING LESS.

Delivered before the Tri State Lumber Dealers Association at Evansville, Indiana, Feb. 2nd.

### THE CRIME OF THE AGE.

There are three kinds of craft. Witchcraft, handicraft and woodcraft. The first woodcraft we have any record of was built by a man named Noah, in the city of Arkadelphia. The passenger list on that boat, though not large, was varied, you will recall, and there was a deal of complaining. Said long ears brazenly, to a fellow passenger: "You need not be so blatant about it. Take it like a lamb, for we are all in the same boat." This is the first record, also, of any connection between woodcraft and the ass, but this alliance has kept up ever since.

The ruthless and wanton destruction of timber is one of the most important of all the grave issues of the day. An issue so broad and so deep as to dwarf the meager limits of a ten minutes' paper, prepared in four or five hours, into utter inadequacy.

Civilization may be the hope of mankind, but it is undoubtedly the terror of our forests. Our pilgrim forefathers seemed to think they had two natural enemies, Trees, and the Indians that hid behind them. They went after the one as relentlessly as the other, an ax in one hand and a rifle in the other, and there's been little peace for either to this day.

Was there a kindred feeling in their manly breasts, we wonder, when they felled a forest giant, and rested their axes upon it, to that which they felt when they shot down a feathered brave or an antlered buck? Both deeds proclaimed them the lords of the land.

Our forests were wont to be the admiration of the world. As population has thickened, the forests have thinned, in an inverse ratio, until it is now a long cry, even from Kentucky, the Dark and Bloody ground, to a real virgin forest.

Of course, even the legitimate demand for lumber is a drain on our timber resources, that is appalling in itself, for it is estimated that the annual output of the saw mills of the United States is valued at \$12 50 per capita, something like forty billion feet of lumber.

How long can our rapidly diminishing forest reserves withstand such onslaughts as this? In the light of these facts, wanton waste of timber is criminal.

Half a century hence, no more wonderful view can be stuck into a stereoscope than that of a deadened forest, such as you can see any day within an hour's drive of Hopkinsville, Ky. Trees belted and killed by the short-sighted farmer, who wanted the ground to cultivate and was too lazy to cut down the trees. There they stand with their rotting branches held out toward heaven, as if invoking the divine curse upon the wasteful profligacy of the short-sighted generation.

Even now, there are sections of our own State where the honest tiller of the soil burns off a woods lot in the spring to insure a "crop" of grass for his drove of razor-backs, at the cost of thousands of dollars' worth of timber.

In France they have been planting and cultivating poplar trees one hundred years.

Less than one hundred miles from where we now sit, there was a few months ago, witnessed the strange anomaly of a man pulling down a worm fence, built of walnut rails and driving his wagon through into a field to haul out walnut stumps.

Once in Bowling Green, Ky., I pulled down an old residence and found the joists and rafters were of black walnut, now worth \$100.00 per thousand feet. Near Clarksville, Tenn., some pencil manufacturing concern recently built a farmer a barbed wire fence around his entire farm in exchange for a stretch of worm fence, built of cedar rails. Half the railroads in Florida burn pine timber in their locomotives.

Two years ago, while traveling through the yellow pine regions of the South, I observed that as far as the eye could reach, every pine tree had been belted for turpentine. This iniquitous practice should be prohibited by law, for while it does not immediately kill the tree, it dwarfs it, and the third repetition of it does practically kill it, and they seldom stop under the third tapping.

There are mountains of sawdust at the mill-sites in the South, which by a process of of destructive distillation would make all the turpentine the world could use (and distilled wood turpentine has been tried and found to be excellent), but the sawdust is allowed to rot or else is burned. Here is a chance for Taft and Ballinger to immortalize themselves. If they'd stop turpentineing, it would be worth more to their own country than peace to Russia and Japan.

The natural enemies of the forest are many and potent. The lightning, the cyclone, the forest fires, worms and decay.

While in the South last March I noticed great open spaces in the pine forests. The trees all dead or dying over acres and acres. I asked my companion, a local sawmill man, what it meant. His laconic reply was "worms."

A tree is felled by the ax or the wind. The top lodges against another tree. Worms infect the former and then the latter, which in turn falls against another, and so on ad infinitum. A dead forest is the result. These reflections upon the natural enemies of the forest, but make more obligatory the cessation of criminal denudation of our forests by man.

This is a great country. While we are clearing new grounds as we call them, and wasting millions of feet of timber annually, burning plant beds and firing tobacco, that could be better done another way, they are planting trees in Oklahoma for shade and timber, and digging houses in the ground.

Additional instances, marked and numerous, might be cited or criminal encroachments upon our timber reserves, but for lack of time and space, I must desist and will pass on to a brief consideration of possible remedies for these evils.

But first, let us strike a balance of our resources and liabilities. High authorities, the Lumber Journals and the Census reports, together, from their fruitful sources of information, estimate the standing timber of the United States, at two thousand billion or two trillion feet. It may interest some of us to know how much of each wood goes to make this total. Briefly, the proportion is as follows:

White Cork Pine, of the North West.	55 billion feet.
Spruce (Found in the East).....	75 " "
Hemlock (Found in the East).....	100 " "
Cypress (Found in the South).....	65 " "
Southern Yellow Pine.....	300 " "
Western Yellow Pine.....	250 " "
Oak, Walnut and Cherry.....	400 " "
Sugar Pine.....	50 " "
Western Fir.....	350 " "
Redwood.....	75 " "

Western Spruce; Western White Pine, Hemlock, Cedar, Larch, etc..... 250 " "

Total Assets, 1,970,000,000,000 ft. Now, for the liabilities. A careful estimate from the same high authorities, places the average cut of timber for the next ten years, at fifty billion feet per annum.

Now, when we consider that the growth of standing timber is more than counterbalanced by its natural enemies—fire, wind and decay—by the simple process of division, we find that forty years will bring us to the end of our timber resources. This estimate is reliable and conservative, and was prepared at considerable cost. This timber is worth ten times the amount of the Government debt of ten billions of dollars.

Now, when a sick man is told that under present conditions, habits of life, etc., he has only a stated length of time to live, his first inquiry of his doctor, after he gets his breath, is, "Can this period be lengthened, and if so, how?"

First, there should be a chair of forestry established in every State College, endowed by the national government. Let education begin its work in earnest. Let our boys be taught the names, nature and use of every indigenous tree. Its value when cut into lumber. What woods of less cost could be substituted for it, in given instances. Let the schools of science and architecture take up the study along the same lines. When once our leading schools place forestry in their curriculums, then will conservation get its start. Our forests will become an object of scientific care and development, and we may yet in a measure, retrieve the costly blunders of the past.

Substitution is another potent remedy. For instance, stone, iron, and concrete and brick, slate and tin in building. How much timber do you suppose is saved annually by the use of barbed wire instead of rail fences? Twenty years ago, barbed wire was an unknown commodity.

It is possible now to build a house without a foot of wood in it, and, fortunately, protection against fire here helps our cause. A modified form of substitution is the using of a more plentiful and cheaper wood for purposes to which we have previously devoted the expensive and scarcer kinds.

Again, economical and judicious use of lumber by large consumers, can effect great good. To illustrate, the railroads of the country use four

billion feet of timber annually for ties. By a chemical treatment, these ties are made to last twenty years instead of seven—a saving of eight billion feet of timber in twenty years in this one item alone.

Again, it should be a penal offense to burn off a wood-land, whether on the culprit's own land or not. It should be a penal offense to build a rail fence. It should be a penal offense, by all means, to use the old-fashioned circular saw. The use of the band saw on account of its thinner cut, saves in a year's cut a half billion feet of lumber. Think of ten millions of dollars worth of saw dust, per year. The band saw is already largely used in our largest mills. Pass state laws granting absolute immunity from taxes to all lands that are being reforested—that is, cut over and turned out to grow up again, and modify the taxes on all acreage of virgin timber land, and thus encourage the second growth of timber in the former case, and remove the incitement to deforesting in the latter, to avoid taxation.

Let the United States Government foster forestry and if need be, employ a standing army to protect and develop government timber lands, even to the sending of the United States Senators, like Burton, to Sing Sing. Plant the tree, spare the tree—in every way, SPARE THE TREE.

For ten long years, I've been in despair over the situation of our forests, but our country has been awakened at last to a realizing sense of its neglect. No stronger proof of this could be asked for than the importance that now attaches to the head of the Bureau of Forestry. No department of the government so holds the public eye, and the recent deposing of a true and tried man, Gifford Pinchot, created more commotion than the threatened war with Nicaragua. The movement toward a standardization of state laws would, if carried out, help greatly in conservation.

It appears to me that the lumber dealers of the U. S. must realize the vast importance of this matter, from a standpoint of national economics. More so, because of their calling. What lumber dealer but loves a tree, a wood, a forest, and more, realizes their utmost essentiality to the progress and perpetuity of his country? And he knows where the leaks and extravagancies are. None better. Then let us wake up, gentlemen, organize and use our power.

The lumber dealers of this country, thoroughly organized into one harmonious body, would prove a resistless force for good or evil. They could elect governors, congressmen, senators and presidents, and control legislation itself. They could stop the digging of the Panama ditch, or dig a network of deep water canals from ocean to ocean and from the lakes to the gulf, dam up Ballinger and reinstate Pinchot, and build a plank walk from every lumber dealer's door to the White House steps, bridges and all. Then let them lend their powerful aid to the conservation of our forests, the sources of the lumberman's wealth, the granary from which comes his daily bread. His calling and his nature alike seem to fit him for this grand work. Pass the word along the line to the sister associations, get busy—get busy now, and let the battle cry be, "This wanton deforesting must cease, this Crime of the Age be punished, Forestry be conserved and encouraged, and this great nation of ours maintain its proud supremacy as the timberland of the world."

These are my views of a subject that has long been a matter of deep interest to me. Take them for what they are worth, and if I have enlisted one single earnest member of this Association in the great cause of timber protection, I am well paid for the brief time I have been able to devote to this paper.

My advice to this aggregation of lumbermen is to buy timber. Fence it with a barbed wire fence. Plow it, hoe it, and if need be, water it. IT WILL PAY. The day will yet come when the National Govern-

ment will appoint saw mill inspectors to enforce the economical sawing and cutting of timbers.

Exhaust the possibilities of the new found radium! Glean closely from the new filled page, recording the wonderful potency of liquid air! Coax from the circumambient air, with the wand of a Franklin, the silent, all-powerful electric current! Marshal all the mighty forces of the wind! Harness the resistless power of the rolling streams of earth? Yea, convert, if you can, the boundless waters of the old ocean itself into a seething cauldron and generate steam to drive the vast, complex machinery of the world—but for the sake of that nature which is our standard of beauty, for the sake of that love of our posterity which is the hope of humanity—for our country's sake, Spare the Tree!

GEO. E. GARY.

Hopkinsville, Jan. 28, 1910.

### This contractor got results.

Some years ago a contractor building a railroad in a warm climate was troubled a great deal by sickness among the laborers.

He turned his attention at once to their food and found that they were getting full rations of meat and were drinking water from a stream near by.

He issued orders to cut down the amount of meat and to increase greatly the quantity of Quaker Oats fed to the men.

He also boiled Quaker Oats and mixed the thin oatmeal water with their drinking water. Almost instantly all signs of stomach disorders passed and his men showed a decided improvement in strength and spirits. This contractor had experience that taught him the great value of good oatmeal.

The cost was small; 10c for regularize packages; it is also packed in hermetically sealed tins for hot climates.

### For The First Time.

For the first time in its history, Fairview District, which is the birthplace of Jefferson Davis and is overwhelmingly Democratic, has a Republican Magistrate. A. B. Wilkins, who was elected on the Democratic ticket, failed to qualify, and Gov. Willson yesterday gave the place to R. E. Gilliam, a Republican.

### Heals Chapped Hands.

A pair of chapped hands can give about as much discomfort as one wants to stand. This is the season for chapped hands and lips and it's well to be prepared by purchasing a bottle of our Witch Hazel Balm.

It quickly heals inflamed and chapped skin and used when needed prevents any further annoyance.

We guarantee this lotion to do all we say it will do and refund the money if you are not satisfied with it. Price 25c. L. L. ELGIN, Hopkinsville member of the Pure Drug Association of America.

### Five Percent

#### Farm Loans.

A special representative of the largest loan company in the United States will be at the office of JOHN T. EDMUNDS, ATTORNEY, every FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY and will make LOANS ON GOOD FARM LAND in Christian and adjoining counties AT FIVE PER CENT. If you desire a loan either call or address a letter to SPECIAL LOAN AGENT, P. O. Box 417, Hopkinsville, Ky.

### Mr. Faulkner's Shop.

Walter Faulkner has purchased of Mack Harper his horseshoeing shop at No. 310 North Main street and immediate possession was given. Mr. Faulkner has a wide acquaintance and invites all his old friends and customers to call and see him when in need of work in his line.

### LOST

Pointer bitch, white body, liver colored head and ears, liver spot on right hip, answers to name of "Bodie." Escaped from Southern Express Co.'s wagon on Dec. 28, 1909. Liberal reward for information or return to H. P. Ware, Hopkinsville, Ky. Cumb. phone 721.

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